



Security Council

Distr.: General
21 April 2003

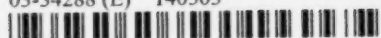
Original: English

Letter dated 10 April 2003 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Counter-Terrorism Committee has received the attached report from Timor-Leste submitted pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1373 (2001) (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Inocencio F. Arias
Security Council Committee established pursuant to
resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism



Annex

Note verbale dated 29 March 2003 from the Permanent Mission of Timor-Leste to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism

The Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee and has the honour to transmit a report on the measures being taken by the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste to implement Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) (see enclosure).

Enclosure**Report to the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the Security Council pursuant to paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001)**

Timor-Leste became a new democratic republic on 20 May 2002, only months after the tragic terrorism events of 11 September 2001. From the outset Timor-Leste has been fully committed to the community of nations' battle against the scourge of terrorism. After a long and hard independence struggle, the maintenance of peace and security has become a high priority. Accordingly, upon joining the United Nations on 27 September 2002, Timor-Leste immediately welcomed its counter-terrorism obligations under Resolution 1373. Timor-Leste recognizes and appreciates the necessity for international cooperation in order to combat terrorism.

As a new country, much must still be done to enact and implement legislation in many areas necessary for governance as well as for counter-terrorism. Our financial and human resources are limited. Thus we have appreciated and accepted the CTC's offer of assistance in order to deal with the complexity of the required counter-terrorism legislation.

Although much remains to be done, Timor-Leste is already making some progress in implementing the requirements of Resolution 1373. The United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET) is successfully training and preparing Timorese police and military to maintain peace, law and order after the Mission winds down in 2004. A recent special report of the Secretary General (S/2003/243) notes that although some adjustments are necessary to the downsizing schedule, the mission is nonetheless on target to accomplish its tasks by June 2004.

In his March 11th statement to the Security Council concerning the Secretary General's special report, the Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste pointed out that recent security disturbances in our country were caused by terrorists who are enemies of independence, freedom and democracy. He asserted that the terrorists would not prevail. The Government of Timor-Leste reiterates and reaffirms this assertion. Timor-Leste is fully committed to the promotion of security, stability, the rule of law, and respect for human rights necessary to defeat terrorism.

Timor-Leste is currently drafting its National Legislation on Terrorism. Our Council of Ministers is meeting to consider the draft laws. The Government is considering all of the requirements of Resolution 1373 including, the prevention and suppression of the financing of terrorist acts, criminalization of money laundering or any willful facilitation of terrorist financing, and the freezing of all economic resources of people who commit or facilitate terrorist activity. Timor-Leste is determined not to be a safe haven for terrorists or those who aid and abet them. It plans to fully cooperate in the exchange of information with other states to provide early warning. It plans to ensure that all who plan, finance, commit or otherwise facilitate terrorism, are brought to justice and punished accordingly. Border controls will be further developed to prevent the movement of terrorists.

Timor-Leste is a member of Interpol and actively cooperates with Interpol with regard to actions taken against terrorism.

Timor-Leste is in the process of joining regional forums such as ASEAN, and the Southwest Pacific Forum. It has also joined the Non-Aligned Movement. Timor-Leste actively participated in the 2002 Bali Regional Ministerial Conference which looked at ways in which regional cooperation could be developed to overcome the threats imposed in the region. Timor-Leste plans to use and cooperate with its regional organizations in order to combat terrorism in accordance with paragraph 3 of Resolution 1373.

Timor-Leste is preparing a packet of International Conventions and Protocol relating to Terrorism that will be submitted to the Council of Ministers for the approval. Timor-Leste intends to become parties to the conventions as soon as possible.

In addition to the above, Timor-Leste will carefully address all of its obligations under Resolution 1373. Due consideration will be given to international law.

As legislation becomes finalized, Timor-Leste will be in a position to provide more details of its compliance with Resolution 1373 in future reports. In the meantime, the Government assures the Counter Terrorism Committee of its full cooperation and commitment.

Dr. Mari Bim Amude Alkatiri
Prime Minister

Done in Dili, Timor-Leste, on 29th March 2003

